



Office of the Mayor



**Tauranga City**

19 August 2019

Mark Ratcliffe  
Interim Chief Executive  
NZ Transport Agency

By email: [mark.ratcliffe@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:mark.ratcliffe@nzta.govt.nz)

Dear Mark

### **Bay Park to Bayfair Project – SH2 Maunganui Road Underpass**

Further to my letter of 15 August, I wish to expand upon the particular concerns held by Council elected members and senior staff, and members of the Tauranga community, about the Bay Park to Bayfair (B2B) project and NZTA's decision not to proceed with the planned underpass under SH2/Maunganui Road.

Firstly, it is extremely disappointing that congestion on the two-lane flyover over the Bay Park and Bayfair intersections is expected to become a significant issue in just 8.5 years. Given the \$120-plus million cost of this project, we believe a better, longer-term solution should have been achievable.

Secondly, you should be aware that there is a groundswell of community concern about the decision not to proceed with the planned underpass link between Matapihi and Bayfair. The implications of this decision are far-reaching for all stakeholders and the inevitable outcomes are at variance with NZTA's obligations to give effect to the Government Policy Statement for Transport. Specifically, the GPS key strategic priorities of safety and access will not be met for pedestrians and cyclists, who will need to negotiate a series of signalised crossing points to get from one side of SH2 to the other. This will involve delays and heightened risk during road crossings, while road users will also face unnecessary delays at the crossing points.

A key Council transportation project focus is to encourage a progressive shift away from cars to other modes of transport – public transport, cycling and walking – and the decision not to proceed with the underpass is therefore extremely unhelpful. The underpass is needed now and that need will only increase as our population continues to grow over the coming decades.

We acknowledge that the estimated cost of the planned underpass has increased significantly (from \$13 million to \$33 million), but believe that the contribution the underpass would make to future-proofing this key transportation corridor, and providing safe, unimpeded access across SH2, does justify the additional investment involved.

**MAYOR GREG BROWNLESS**

**Tauranga City Council**

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